

## CLAIMS

Claimed is:

1. A method for electronic commerce over a network, said method comprising:  
transmitting an order entry data set from a customer to an exchange wherein said  
order entry data set comprises a product identifier and a product volume;  
determining a manufacturer from said product identifier;  
transmitting a manufacturer specific order from said exchange to said manufacturer  
wherein said manufacturer specific order comprises said product identifier and  
said product volume;  
transmitting a product availability request from said manufacturer to a dealer wherein  
said product availability request comprises said product identifier and said  
product volume;  
transmitting an availability report from said dealer to said manufacturer wherein said  
availability report comprises a dealer price adjustment;  
transmitting a manufacturer confirmation report from said manufacturer to said  
exchange wherein said manufacturer confirmation report comprises an  
availability index derived from said availability report and a customer price  
derived from said dealer price adjustment;  
transmitting a product order confirmation from said exchange to said customer  
wherein said product order confirmation comprises said manufacturers  
confirmation report;  
transporting a product corresponding to said product identifier from said dealer to said  
customer;  
transferring purchase funds from said customer to said dealer wherein said purchase  
funds correspond to said customer price; and  
transferring manufacturer funds from said dealer to said manufacturer.

2. The method for electronic commerce over a network of claim 1 wherein said manufacturer specific order further comprises a customer identifier.
3. The method for electronic commerce over a network of claim 1 wherein said product order confirmation comprises a second manufacturers confirmation report from a second manufacturer.
4. The method for electronic commerce over a network of claim 1 wherein said manufacturers confirmation report further comprises a second availability index derived from a second availability report from a second dealer.
5. The method for electronic commerce over a network of claim 1 wherein said network is a computer network.
6. The method for electronic commerce over a network of claim 5 wherein said computer network is the world wide web.
7. The method for electronic commerce over a network of claim 1 further comprising: transmitting a purchase order from said customer to said exchange prior to said transporting a product.
8. The method for electronic commerce over a network of claim 7 further comprising transmitting a dealer purchase order from said exchange to said dealer.
9. The method for electronic commerce over a network of claim 7 further comprising transmitting a purchase confirmation from said exchange to said manufacturer.
10. The method for electronic commerce over a network of claim 9 further comprising transmitting a dealer purchase order from said manufacturer to said dealer.

11. The method for electronic commerce over a network of claim 1 further comprising a contractual price relationship between said manufacturer and said customer.
12. The method for electronic commerce over a network of claim 11 wherein said customer price is derived from said contractual price relationship and said dealer price adjustment.
13. A system for coordinating product orders and distribution over a network wherein a manufacturer and a customer have a specific contractual price relationship and wherein said system comprises:
  - a communication device for receiving a manufacturing specific order over said network from an exchange where said manufacturing specific order comprises a product identifier, which identifies a product of said manufacturer, a product volume and a customer identifier which identifies said customer;
  - a second communication device for transmitting a product availability request to a dealer wherein said product availability request comprises said product identifier and said product volume;
  - a third communication device for receiving an availability report from said dealer wherein said availability report comprises a dealer availability index for said product and a dealer price adjustment;
  - a processor for determining a customer price from said contractual price relationship and said dealer price adjustment and an availability index derived from said dealer availability index and a manufacturers inventory;
  - a fourth communication device for transmitting a manufacturer confirmation report to said exchange wherein said manufacturer confirmation report comprises said customer price and said availability index;
  - a fifth communication device for receiving a purchase confirmation from said exchange wherein said purchase confirmation comprises products distributed by said dealer.

14. The system for coordinating product orders and distribution over a network of claim 13 further comprising a sixth communication device for transmitting a dealer purchase order to said dealer wherein said dealer purchase order comprises said products distributed by said dealer.
15. The system for coordinating product orders and distribution over a network of claim 13 wherein said communication device and at least one of said group consisting of said first communication device, said second communication device, said third communication device, said fourth communication device, said fifth communication device and said sixth communication device are the same device.
16. The system for coordinating product orders and distribution over a network of claim 15 wherein said communication device; said first communication device; said second communication device; said third communication device; said fourth communication device; said fifth communication device and said sixth communication device are the same device.
17. The system for coordinating product orders and distribution over a network of claim 13 wherein said manufacturer distributes said product to said customer.
18. The system for coordinating product orders and distribution over a network of claim 15 wherein said dealer distributes said product to said customer.
19. The system for coordinating product orders and distribution over a network of claim 15 wherein said network is the world wide web.
20. A system for coordinating product orders and distribution over a network wherein said system comprises a multiplicity of manufacturers, a multiplicity of customers and a multiplicity of dealers and at least one manufacturer of said multiplicity of

manufacturers and at least one customer of said multiplicity of customers have a specific contractual price relationship and wherein said system comprises:  
a communication device for receiving an order entry data set from said customer wherein said order entry data set comprises at least one product identifier identifying a product manufactured by said manufacturer and at least one product volume and at least one customer identifier;  
said communication device further transmits a manufacturer specific order to said manufacturer wherein said manufacturer specific order comprises said product identifier, said product volume and said client identifier;  
said communication device further receives a manufacturers confirmation report from said manufacturer wherein said manufacturers confirmation report comprises an availability index for said product and a customer price wherein said availability index is derived from a dealer availability index and said customer price is derived from a dealer price adjustment and said specific contractual price relationship; and  
said communication device further transmits a purchase order confirmation to said customer wherein said purchase order confirmation comprises said customer price and said availability index.

21. The system for coordinating product orders and distribution over a network of claim 20 wherein said order entry data set further comprises a second product identifier identifying a second product manufactured by a second manufacturer and a second product volume and wherein said second manufacturer has a second specific price relationship with a second customer;  
said communication device further transmits a second manufacturers specific order to said second manufacturer wherein said second manufacturer specific order comprises a second product identifier and a second product volume and said customer identifier;

said communication device further receives a second manufacturers confirmation report from said second manufacturer wherein said second manufacturers confirmation report comprises a second availability index for a second product and a second customer price wherein said second availability index is derived from a second dealer availability index and a second customer price is derived from a second dealer price adjustment and said second specific contractual price relationship; and

said purchase order confirmation comprises said second customer price and said second availability index.

22. A method for coordinating product orders and distribution over a network wherein said network comprises a multiplicity of manufacturers, a multiplicity of customers and a multiplicity of dealers and at least one manufacturer of said multiplicity of manufacturers has a specific contractual price relationship with at least one customer of said multiplicity of customers and wherein said method comprises:
- receiving an order entry data set from said customer wherein said order entry data set comprises a product identifier identifying a product manufactured by said manufacturer and a volume and a customer identifier and a second product identifier and a second product volume identifying a second product manufactured by a second manufacturer and wherein said second manufacturer has a second specific price relationship with a second customer;
- transmitting a manufacturer specific order to said manufacturer wherein said manufacturer specific order comprises said product identifier, said product volume and said client identifier;
- transmitting a second manufacturers specific order to said second manufacturer wherein said second manufacturer specific order comprises a second product identifier and a second product volume and said customer identifier;
- receiving a manufacturers confirmation report from said manufacturer wherein said manufacturers confirmation report comprises an availability index for said

product and a customer price wherein said availability index is derived from dealer availability index and said customer price is derived from a dealer price adjustment and said specific contractual price relationship; and receiving a second manufacturers confirmation report from said second manufacturer wherein said second manufacturers confirmation report comprises a second availability index for a second product and a second customer price wherein said second availability index is derived from a second dealer availability index and a second customer price is derived from a second dealer price adjustment and said second specific contractual price relationship; and transmitting a purchase order confirmation to said customer wherein said purchase order confirmation comprises said customer price, said availability index said second customer price and said second availability index.

23. A system for coordinating product orders and distribution over a network wherein a manufacturer and a customer have a specific contractual price relationship and wherein said system comprises:
- a communication device for receiving a manufacturing specific order over said network from an exchange where said manufacturing specific order comprises a product identifier, which identifies a product of said manufacturer, a product volume and a customer identifier which identifies said customer;
  - said communication device further transmits a product availability request to a dealer wherein said product availability request comprises said product identifier said product volume and said customer identifier;
  - said communication device further receives an availability report from said dealer wherein said availability report comprises a dealer availability index for said product and a dealer price adjustment;
  - a processor for determining a customer price from said contractual price relationship and said dealer price adjustment and an availability index from said dealer availability index and a manufacturers inventory;

said communication device further transmits a manufacturer confirmation report to  
said exchange wherein said manufacturer confirmation report comprises said  
customer price and said availability index;

said communication device further receives a purchase confirmation from said  
exchange wherein said purchase confirmation comprises products distributed  
by said dealer.

24. The system for coordinating product orders and distribution over a network of claim 23 wherein said communication device further transmits a dealer purchase order to said dealer wherein said dealer purchase order comprises said products distributed by said dealer.
25. The system for coordinating product orders and distribution over a network of claim 23 wherein said dealer delivers said product to said customer.
26. The system for coordinating product orders and distribution over a network of claim 25 wherein said customer compensates said dealer for said product.
27. A system for coordinating product orders and distribution over a network wherein said network comprises a multiplicity of manufacturers, a multiplicity of customers and a multiplicity of dealers and at least one manufacturer of said multiplicity of manufacturers and at least one customer of said multiplicity of customers have a specific contractual price relationship and wherein said system comprises:  
a communication device for receiving an order entry data set from said customer  
wherein said order entry data set comprises at least one product identifier  
identifying a product manufactured by said manufacturer and at least one  
product volume and at least one customer identifier;



said communication device further transmits a manufacturer specific order to said manufacturer wherein said manufacturer specific order comprises said product identifier, said product volume and said client identifier;

said communication device further receives a manufacturers confirmation report from said manufacturer wherein said manufacturers confirmation report comprises an availability index for said product and a customer price wherein said availability index is derived from a dealer availability index and said customer price is derived from a dealer price adjustment and said specific contractual price relationship;

said communication device further receives a purchase order from said customer; and

said communication device further transmits a purchase order confirmation to said customer wherein said purchase order confirmation comprises said customer price and said availability index.

28. The system for coordinating product orders and distribution over a network of claim 27 wherein said system further comprises a catalog server addressable by said client.
29. The system for coordinating product orders and distribution over a network of claim 28 wherein said system further comprises a content rich catalog server addressable by said client.
30. The system for coordinating product orders and distribution over a network of claim 29 wherein said content rich catalog server is addressable by said client through said catalog server.
31. A method for coordinating product orders and distribution over a network wherein a manufacturer and a customer have a specific contractual price relationship and wherein said method comprises:

receiving a manufacturing specific order over said network from an exchange where  
said manufacturing specific order comprises a product identifier, which  
identifies a product of said manufacturer, a product volume and a customer  
identifier which identifies said customer;  
transmitting a product availability request to a dealer wherein said product availability  
request comprises said product identifier said product volume and said  
customer identifier;  
receiving an availability report from said dealer wherein said availability report  
comprises a dealer availability index for said product and a dealer price  
adjustment;  
determining a customer price from said contractual price relationship and said dealer  
price adjustment and an availability index from said dealer availability index  
and a manufacturers inventory;  
transmitting a manufacturer confirmation report to said exchange wherein said  
manufacturer confirmation report comprises said customer price and said  
availability index; and  
receiving a purchase confirmation from said exchange wherein said purchase  
confirmation comprises products distributed by said dealer.

32. The method for coordinating product orders and distribution over a network of claim  
31 further comprising transmitting a dealer purchase order to said dealer wherein said  
dealer purchase order comprises said products distributed by said dealer.
33. A method for coordinating product orders and distribution over a network wherein  
said network comprises a multiplicity of manufacturers, a multiplicity of customers  
and a multiplicity of dealers and at least one manufacturer of said multiplicity of  
manufacturers and at least one customer of said multiplicity of customers have a  
specific contractual price relationship and wherein said method comprises:

receiving an order entry data set from said customer wherein said order entry data set comprises at least one product identifier identifying a product manufactured by said manufacturer and at least one product volume and at least one customer identifier;

transmitting a manufacturer specific order to said manufacturer wherein said manufacturer specific order comprises said product identifier, said product volume and said client identifier;

receiving a manufacturers confirmation report from said manufacturer wherein said manufacturers confirmation report comprises an availability index for said product and a customer price wherein said availability index is derived from a dealer availability index and said customer price is derived from a dealer price adjustment and said specific contractual price relationship;

receiving a purchase order from said customer; and

transmitting a purchase order confirmation to said customer wherein said purchase order confirmation comprises said customer price and said availability index.